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26 SEP 1958

Mr. Edward F. Wagner
President
The Interchurch Center
297 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Wagner:

I just arrived in the office from a trip to Europe and found your letter of 17 September inviting me to march in the processional at the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone of the Interchurch Center on 12 October.

Much as I would like to attend on this historic occasion, I have a previous engagement on that date and therefore must regretfully decline your very kind invitation. Mrs. Dulles also will be unable to attend since she is still in Europe and is not expected back in the country until after the middle of October. However, your thoughtfulness in asking us to the ceremony is indeed appreciated.

Once again, many thanks and kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Allen W. Dulles
Director

07/DCI/ :jmf 26 Sept 58

Dist:

Orig - Add.

1 - DCI

1 - Col. Grogan

1 - Mr. W. J. [unclear]

1 - Reading

1 - AAB

297 FOURTH AVENUE (SUITE 84) • NEW YORK 10, N. Y. • OR 4-5000

September 17, 1958

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The 300 special guests invited to be in the procession include official representatives of thirty-five Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox communions, presidents and deans of theological seminaries, official representatives from church-related universities and colleges, civic officials and executives of church agencies utilizing space in The Center.

After you have had an opportunity to read the attached summary sheet, together with the formal invitation going to you and Mrs. Dulles separately, a reply will be much appreciated. I truly hope that you and Mrs. Dulles will honor us by your presence on an occasion which I know will be historic and which I hope will provide a real impetus to religious work throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

Edmund F. Wagner

SUMMARY SHEET

Ceremonial Laying of the Cornerstone of The Interchurch Center,
Riverside Drive at 120th Street, New York City, October 12, 1958

1. The Interchurch Center- The first national headquarters for Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox churches, their boards and agencies, occupies an entire block made available by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Sheathed in limestone to harmonize in exterior appearance with its neighbors, The Riverside Church and Union Theological Seminary, this modern 19-story office building provides such joint facilities as a Chapel, a Treasure Room for manuscripts of hymns and other memorabilia, a Byzantine Room for an impressive collection of Orthodox church art, meeting rooms of various sizes, a cafeteria, lounge and underground parking for 130 cars. The building will be completed within a year.
2. The cornerstone is being provided by the Greek Orthodox Church. It is from the Agora in Corinth where "many hearing Paul believed and were baptized".
3. Special arrangements - 7500 reserved seats will be placed on and along Riverside Drive from Grant's Tomb to a point south of 119th Street. Special seats directly in front of the platform are being reserved for persons in the processional and members of their families. Union Theological Seminary's Social Hall will be used as a robing room. Academic gowns (no mortar boards) will be worn. Persons in the processional should plan to arrive not later than 2:30 p.m. at the seminary entrance on Claremont Avenue near the 122nd Street corner.

Parking facilities will be at a premium. Special admission cards will pass a private car or taxi through the police lines to the door of the robing room at Union Theological Seminary. Special parking for not more than 50 cars is available within a block for persons in the processional who are driving to New York from the suburbs or from other cities. It will be helpful to know now what type of transportation you plan to use.

4. Program and Time Schedule:

- (a) 2:00 - 2:49 p.m. - Musical Program: Riverside Carillon Recital - Dr. Kamiel LeFevre; combined choir of 500 voices from various churches and from the choirs and glee clubs of Columbia, Barnard, Union and Juilliard; instrumental music - the Riverside Organ, the Juilliard Brasses and 100 Handbell ringers from the New York area.
- (b) 2:50 - 3:15 p.m. - Processional March - musical accompaniment.
- (c) 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. - Program: President Eisenhower; Mr. David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Board of Morningside Heights, Inc.; and Rev. Ralph W. Sockman, D.D., will speak.

There will be an informal reception in the Assembly Hall of The Riverside Church after the program is concluded, to which all persons in the processional, members of their families and friends are invited.